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Letter To The Editor

Appomattox, Va.
November 13, 1978

Editor, **Times-Virginian**
Appomattox, Va.

Dear Sir:

As the Thanksgiving season nears, I am prompted to relate my thoughts at this time.

This year has been a record-breaking year in production. There has been an abundance of everything, including all crops, vegetables and fruits. Our Master has been so good to us. For this we are truly thankful.

There are those of us who are not in a position to grow our own vegetables, etc., and I, for one, miss this pleasure. Yet, I have not lacked for any of the good foods grown this summer. My friends have surely remembered me and shared. I am sure there are many who can say with grateful hearts that the haves have certainly remembered the have-nots.

So, when I sit down to my table and return thanks, I not only ask the Lord to bless the food of which I partake, but to bless the hands that tilled the soil that produced the food.

My wish is that each one will continue to prosper and grow in His grace, and may we all be thankful for each other.

Yours sincerely,
Harriette P. Cunningham

SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS

Recently I read an article in the **Lynchburg News** about school bus drivers in Appomattox County. How people's children come home and tell about bad incidents that happened on the school bus, or the filthy language they pick up. Well, I am here to say you are talking about one percent of the drivers. What about the other 99 percent? Why doesn't someone say something good about the drivers and the people behind them, who give one hundred percent of themselves to other people's children. I find that in all walks of life there are a few who do not give their all in their job, and we always seem to hear about these few.

I've seen bus drivers change bad kids into well behaved kids, simply because the driver cared. Where does it say that a bus driver is there to teach your child good morals? We try, but that part of a child's growing should come from the parents and the home.

Appomattox has a good bus system because the people care, right up to the superintendent. Bus drivers are not allowed to touch their children. It's up to the driver to report that child to the school principal and he or she handles it from there. It takes time, but it does work. The bus driver is there to get your child home safely.

Neither do we tell people where to live, but the county does see that your child is furnished with a ride to school. If you don't like the time your child spends on a school bus then take them. It's better to take an hour to get your child home safely, than to rush the job, where someone will end up getting hurt. People are always in a rush when they get around a school bus for the simple reason it's slow. They have to watch out for the other guy as well as drive. A bus driver has tomorrow's future in their hands.

I have to stand up for most school bus drivers, you see, I'm one! Twice a day your kids belong to me, I have their lives in my hands, so if I'm a little slow, please don't mind. Thank God I take the time to care. We love each child as our own. Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Carolyn D. Page,
Claudine J. Moore,
Doris M. Moore, and
Betty J. Franklin
and fellow drivers

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The Pastor Speaks

COMMUNICATION IN THE HOME"

Communication is an important ingredient of our society and world. Communications systems have become very sophisticated to the point of turning our planet into a global village. It may be, however, that very litte comunication is taking place among some families. Failure to communicate automatically means a breadown in relationships.

Communication involves a willingness to be honest. There is no room in family life for hidden agendas. "Lay all cards on the table" is a saying that very well applies to interpersonal relationships. Until a couple or a family get to the place where they will be honest with one another, very little growth will happen.

Communication involves the presence of conflict. Let me share with you some principles of communication and conflict.

1. When two people marry, they vow to **care for** and **take care of** one another. And caring involves intimacy. Two persons cannot live at the same address without confronting each other.
2. Conflict can be very healthy and redemptive within a marriage and family if hostility is managed responsibly. This has to do with the way we handle our tempers. You cannot make it through marriage without rocking the boat. All machinery needs oiling every now and then!
3. Conflict can be an expression of care. Two people never really get to know one another without getting into the ring on occasion. Two people who say they have never had a fight are either lying or haven't gotten to know one another.
4. Communicaiton and conflict go hand-in-hand. The right use of conflict can help us to communicate real needs and concerns to our marriage partner.
5. Communication involves four important ingredients. **One is listening.** Oftentimes we don't hear the other person because we are not really listening. And sometimes we don't want to listen because hearing demands a response.

A second aspect of communication is revelation. Many people are afraid to reveal themselves for fear of being rejected. Getting to know our marriage partner and our children is a rewarding adventure! **A third and fourth ingredient of communication is that of understanding and forgiveness.**

Here are three ways to handle a conflict. One is to talk about what's bothering us. Don't assume that your marriage partner can read your mind. Talk out your feelings and hurts. A second tool for dealing with conflict is that of timing. Don't wait a week to tell your spouse or your child that you are upset with them. That isn't fair! Pouting tends to make the other person suffer. A third ingredient is to both give and accept helpful criticism. Never criticize without affirming your love and concern for your spouse or child.

If you must fight, fight with these things in mind! God bless your marriage and family life.

Rev. William L. Trimyer,
Pastor,
Elon Baptist Church

Jordan News

On Saturday night, Nov. 18, at 8 p.m. the Spiritual Knights will be celebrating part one of their anniversary here. Many groups have been invited so plan now to attend.

On Saturday, Nov. 19, at 3 p.m. Rev. Don Lewis will be preaching here as the Usher Board celebrates its anniversary.

On the 4th Sunday evening at 3 p.m. the annual memorial service for Mrs. Mattie T. West will be held.

On Thanksgiving night at 8 p.m. Rev. Spears will be speaking here.

On Saturday, December 2 the Young Adult Choir will be sponsoring a supper at the Oakville Ruritan Club. There will be plates and sandwiches for sale and all home cooking. So plan to stop by and get some good food.

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